



Senator Harry Reid

A Report to Women in Nevada

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Senator Reid Recognizes Women in Sports

When it comes to women and sports, times have definitely changed. When my wife Landra and I were in high school there were no sports available for her to join. She was an excellent athlete and she loved playing sports, but the only option for her was cheerleading.

Today women are involved in sports, taking advantage of opportunities previously denied them. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark legislation that has given women's sports a boost and provided equal access to funding. By prohibiting discrimination against women in federally funded education, Title IX has facilitated a dramatic increase in girl's high school sports, as well as increasing the opportunity for women to receive athletic scholarships for higher education.

Women at all ages and all levels have been encouraged to participate in sports. Even the Olympics expanded its scope to involve women in more events. It used to be that women only participated in events like figure skating, but now women can be seen participating in everything from hockey to bobsledding. In fact, our USA team of Jill Bakken and Vonetta Flowers captured the world's attention by taking the gold in women's bobsled this year. Tristan Gale won gold in women's skeleton with Lea Ann Parsley winning the silver, and the U.S. women's hockey team took silver. Among many other female athletes who made us proud was Chris Witty, who took home a gold medal in speed skating while recovering from mono.

Women deserve much credit for their involvement and success in sports. Recently I welcomed Billie Jean King, the famous tennis player, to my office in the Capitol. She has played a large role in changing how women in sports are treated, viewed and paid. We

spoke about the importance of Title IX, and we both agreed that it can be instrumental in helping women excel in sports if implemented and enforced correctly. I will continue working to ensure Title IX funding is available to encourage even more women to get involved in sports.



Senator Reid spoke with Billie Jean King about the importance of continuing support for Title IX.

To show further support for Title IX this spring I attended a soccer clinic in Summerlin with Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain, stars of the World Cup Champion and Olympic soccer teams now playing in the women's professional league.

Senator Reid Welcomes Christie Brinkley to Testify at Hearing on Nuclear Safety

As chairman of the Senate's Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, I recently held a hearing on the ability of the nuclear industry to protect the public in case of a

catastrophic nuclear disaster. The hearing included testimony from top nuclear scientists and representatives of the nuclear industry. I also invited Christie Brinkley, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Star Foundation, a group which opposes reauthorization of the subsidy, to testify.

"The nuclear industry should not be allowed to avoid paying its insurance premiums up front like all other American businesses and families," Brinkley said. "The money to pay for an accident should be available with no questions asked. If the nuclear industry can't come up with the funds to compensate victims because they can't afford it, is it really fair and reasonable for the taxpayer to be stuck with the costs of paying for a major nuclear accident?"



Senator Reid with Christie Brinkley after her testimony at the nuclear industry hearing.

National Women's History Month

Six months after the tragic events of September 11, the decision of the National Women's History Project to focus this year on Women Sustaining the American Spirit seems most appropriate.

As we honor women sustaining the American spirit nationwide, I would like to honor a woman who played an important yet not fully recognized role in the history of Nevada and the United States.

Sarah Winnemucca, born in the 1840s, was a member of the Paiutes, a tribe in western and northern Nevada. She was a charismatic, intelligent, courageous woman, who dedicated her life to helping her people.

At a time of substantial hostility and mistrust between Native Americans and whites, she overcame the barriers of race and gender to accomplish a lot. She learned English, Spanish and 3 Indian dialects, enabling her to bridge the communications gap and create greater understanding between communities. She advocated for her people, spoke out against their mistreatment, secured their release from a distant reservation and made a difficult journey to save her father's life.

One of the few Nevada Indians in the 1800s who could read and write, she wrote the first book by a Native American woman, which described her tribe's history and customs and appealed for an end to their suffering. She also founded a progressive school for Native American children.

A statue of Sarah Winnemucca will be placed in the United States Capitol. She will be the first woman of color featured in the Capitol's National Statuary Hall. I look forward to seeing her statue and am happy that many visitors will finally learn about her significant contributions.

KEEPING IN TOUCH



Please feel free to contact me or my staff offices with questions or concerns you might have regarding these or any other issues. We value your input and stand ready to work with you.

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